

VOL. 32, No. 7 September, 1966

# The Bronze Table

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WINNIPEG 1 MAN



Lieutenant General, HONORABLE P. J. MONTAGUE,  
C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., M.C., V.D.

HONORARY PRESIDENT 1935-1966



# THE BRONZE TABLET

Published By

## Valour Road Memorial Branch

Manitoba



No. 101

### ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

Editor—WILLIAM A. EVERITT,  
112 Riverbend Crescent, St. James  
Phone 888-4387

*Authorized as second class mail by the Post  
Office Department, Ottawa, and for payment  
of postage in cash.*

Associate—R. S. COX,  
162 Parkview St., St. James  
Phone 888-1035

Postmaster—Please return all undeliverable  
copies to National Publishers Ltd., 462 Har-  
grave Street, Winnipeg 2.

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# NEXT GENERAL MEETING

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21st — 8 p.m.**

---

## ANNUAL CHURCH PARADE

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25th**

ST. PATRICK'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

BRANCH and AUXILIARY MEMBERS

Those who wish to Parade, meet at the Blind Institute,

Portage and Sherburn at 2:15 p.m.

Others meet at the Church at 2:30 p.m.

**CHURCH SERVICE 2:45 p.m.**

Refreshments will be served in the Parish Hall on Spruce Street, following  
the Service at the Bronze Tablet.

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## GUEST EDITORIAL

## LEGION DEVIATION IS NOT PROGRESS

The nineteen aims and objectives of the Legion's Unity Conference of November 25th to 28th, held in Winnipeg in 1925 should be reviewed by all members and especially those elected as delegates to Dominion Conventions. They are the objectives we should all aim for, the goals which our founding comrades promulgated, the inspiration which pierced the hearts and minds of those who survived the inferno and battle, and made them realize that unless we had dedication, superb leadership and the combined strength of the rank and file, the success envisaged would not materialize.

A study of the nineteen aims and objectives reveals that not all have been achieved, and one reason is the deviation from the straight and narrow path laid down in the constitution.

Strange ideas, far removed from veterans welfare have infiltrated the minds of our leaders, and the one which deviates away from our original path the most is the heavy financial support to the sports project for non-veterans, or to quote the May, 1966 Legionary editorial, "Making young Canadians healthy and strong." The same editorial states: "The Legion will be spending \$175,000.00 of its own funds on the 1966 sports program." It certainly will help track coaches and other non-veterans to have more gravy, but many old veterans are getting weaker and more sickly on far below normal nutrition. Another deviation is the amount of funds being sent to the B.C.E.L. for aid to veterans of Commonwealth native veterans in Africa and the Caribbean, a worthy cause no

doubt, but charity should begin at home and their own countries could help them if the leaders responsible for their "new freedom" were more concerned in welfare work than increasing their deposits in Swiss banks.

The reason for these deviations from our aims and objectives can be traced back to Dominion conventions held during the last decade. A convention is supposed to be the essence of a large organization democracy, at which the delegates' responsibility is to carry out the wishes of those who voted for them, or in other words to be attuned to rank and file thinking. Unfortunately many delegates are incapable of following this course, either from lack of knowledge, or are emotional thinkers who can be stampeded by the type of demagoguery so much in evidence at the last convention when the lachrymal glands of the delegates were activated far more than their brain cells by the command speaker chosen to push through the raise in the per capita tax. The vast majority of Legion members in a referendum would have voted against an increase, but by demagoguery and other methods which all delegates discover after their emotional binges, the Dominion Command has been successful in pushing through changes the rank and file didn't want, but which their delegates voted for. The time has come for better organization, better chairmanship and delegates who can form opinions after analyzing the facts, and above all, a return to the nineteen aims and objectives which are relative exclusively to Canadian veterans' welfare. H. H.

Legionnaire Harold Heidrick

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THE FIRST PRIZE TICKET



Tickets for this years Christmas Draw are now being delivered to all Branch Members. If this years draw is a big success, we will be able to keep the branch dues same as last year instead of an increase of 50c, which was put on at the 1966 Dominion Convention. If you sold one book last year, try and sell **TWO** books this year.

Tickets sell from 1c to 25c with 2 FREE TICKETS in every book.

DRAW CHAIRMAN,  
Bill Everitt.





910915

George A. Bate

45th Canadian Light Infantry

Died June 7, 1966

Cremated June 10, 1966

Aged 71 years.



Albert Stephen Wilson

41134

106th and 90th Regiments

R.C.A.F.

Died August 21, 1966

Buried August 24, 1966

Aged 67 years.

# LEST WE FORGET

532170

Hubert E. Smith

12th Canadian Field Ambulance

78th Battalion

Died June 6, 1966

Buried June 10, 1966

Brookside Cemetery

Aged 76 years.



Basil Middleton

No. 50628

16th Canadian Field Ambulance

Died July 3, 1966

Cremated July 6, 1966

at Slough, England

Aged 73 years.



Sargent

Lewis T. C. Clifford

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2nd Life Guards and P.P.C.L.I.

Veterans Guard W.W.2

Died July 21, 1966

Buried July 25, 1966

Aged 72 years.

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**Lieut. General Hon. P. J. Montague, Q.C., C.B., C.M.G.,  
D.S.O., M.C., V.D.**

**HONORARY PRESIDENT 1935-1966**

On June 11th, the branch lost its most illustrious member when Comrade Montague passed away in Deer Lodge Hospital. But it will not be only for his renown he will be remembered but also for the comradeship he displayed and the keen interest and help so willingly given when called upon to do so. Acting as our Honorary President for 32 years and an active member for 33, he played a prominent part at branch functions, including the annual Vimy Dinners since 1936. In the banquet halls commemorating Canada's greatest military victory of the 1st World War, Comrade Montague's speeches were always the highlight of the evening. Possessing the gift of oratory granted only to the very few and blest with the fortitude of calling a spade a spade, interposed by brilliant wit, he was always able to lift the spirits of lesser mortals to higher levels of consciousness. Who at the dinner of April, 1939 will ever forget his scathing denunciation of Nazism and the Machievellina tactics of Hitler, five months before the war clouds broke, when our politicians and wishful thinkers were obsessed with the Munich; "Peace in our time complex", and were silent and afraid to disturb the status quo? And who can forget during his still vigorous years as a speaker, the barbs he shot at political duplicity, evasion and chicanery, but because of being blunted with ironic humour made even the politicians with the thickest epidermis burst into laughter.

Despite his spectacular rise to high military command, he never lost his innate ability to assess the mentality of the rank and file and was always attuned to their thinking, sharing their hopes and aspirations, qualities which endeared him to all those who worked with him. To rise to the heights in

one's chosen profession is the mark of intellectuality, dedication and will power which only a few attain, but to reach the top rungs of the ladder in the two widely divergent legal and military professions, demand that extra indefinable quality which is usually referred to as greatness. Comrade Montague reached both heights and offered his services and gifts to aid the branch gain a reputation which has made it a model for all branches to follow in upholding the principles promulgated at the 1925 Unity Conference when the Legion was founded.

The records of both his careers were covered at length in the obituary columns of Winnipeg's two newspapers and are known to most members, but his service in the Legion received little mention and the chief purpose of this obituary is to pay tribute to him as a Legionaire and the pride he took in being a member of our branch in which he held Life Membership, and also to detail the duties arranged by Comrade Bill Pinkham for branch representation at the funeral.

Forty members formed the Honour Guard, wearing medals and berets lined up in two sections with the colours in the centre, the first time the colours were used at a funeral. The branch colour was draped with a black bow and long ribbons, but the Queen's colour was not draped. After the service Legion rites were carried out.

The passing of our most prominent member was a sorrowful blow to those who knew him through the years of service and relied upon him to inspire and lift the branch to higher levels, but we can assuage our grief by perpetuating his wish that the traditions of Valour Road will be maintained and the

(Continued on page 11)



## VALOUR ROAD'S PAST PRESIDENTS — 1932-1965

### F. J. A. Orchard 1942

Comrade Orchard joined the branch in December 1932 and was elected an executive member at the first annual meeting in March 1933. He was a branch delegate at the Dominion Convention at Ottawa in 1934 and was one of the branch members who went to the Vimy Pilgrimage in 1936. He served on various committees and was active in all branch affairs before elected as 2nd Vice President in 1940 and 1st Vice President in 1941.

When the Valour Road Company of the Veterans' Guard (Reserve) was organized in 1940, Fred was chosen to be a platoon sergeant, and although his service in the 1st World War was with the Canadian Army Service Corps, he soon became a competent infantry sergeant under a regular army Princess Pat's drill instructor, who trained a special class for all n.c.o.'s. Despite his various war activities, Comrade Orchard was elected president of the branch in 1942.

During his term of office Valour Road's war effort gained momentum with the organization of the Hong Kong Carnival in aid of Canadian prisoners of war captured by the Japanese. These included the survivors of the Winnipeg Grenadiers, one of the two battalions who took part in the defence of the ill-

fated city. A member of the branch and a corporal in Fred's platoon, Police Sergeant Kelso, M.M., lost two sons who were with the Grenadiers during the fighting there, and the branch went all out to make the fund raising a success. Seven thousand dollars were raised and turned over to the Red Cross to send prisoner of war parcels to Japan. It was a very busy year for Fred and the branch, with so many war activities planned and executed. For his leadership and services during those trying days, Comrade Orchard was awarded a Life Membership.

After leaving the chair, he was active in the sales campaign to sell bonds to raise money to build our present building, and later served as a director on the board of the Valour Road Legion Community Centre Ltd. Fred is still a member of the branch with thirty four years service, and can look back with pride at his long and faithful service.

Like his predecessor in office, Comrade Orchard was employed by the Canadian National Railways, and retired after many years of service as a supervisor in the Express Department.

### VALOUR ROAD LEGION "65" CLUB PROGRAMME FOR September & October

Sept. 22nd—Penny Bingo in the hall at 2 p.m. Ladies invited.

Sept. 29th—Crib and Bridge in the Hall at 2 p.m.

October 6—Colored Slides, courtesy of Cde. J. L. Charles, of Zambia and Tanzania. Ladies are invited.

October 13—Cribbage and Bridge.

The 65 Club had a most enjoyable outing August 25th when 63 members went sailing down the river on the Paddle Wheel Queen.

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- *Wedding Receptions* • *Banquets*
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- *Stags* • *Christmas Parties, etc.*

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## VALOUR ROAD'S PAST PRESIDENTS — 1932-1965

### G. E. Hocking, M.C., 1943-1944

Comrade Gilbert (Gil) Hocking was initiated as a member on October 19th, 1938. He was an Australian by birth, probably our only member who had lived "down under" during his formative years, and became a Canadian citizen before the 1st World War serving with the 5th Western Cavalry. He was wounded twice, commissioned in the field and decorated with the Military Cross for bravery in face of the enemy. In civilian life, Gil was cashier for the North Star Oil Company.

In December 1940, he was appointed secretary of the branch, taking over this office when the work was extremely heavy due to the ever expanding war activities. He re-organized the office duties at his home by procuring a branch typewriter and filing cabinets, and installed a system which facilitated the work of all the secretary's who followed him, especially those during the period from 1944 to 1947 when the work load was still onerous.

Gil held the office of secretary until 1942 when he was elected 1st Vice President and continued in office for 1944.

During the formation of the Veterans Guard (Reserve) in 1940, Gil was one of the first to volunteer, but was unable to pass the medical test due to war disabilities. This did not deter him from his duty to serve in any capacity and he was accepted by the Manitoba Volunteer Reserve, commissioned and served until the end of the war. He also served as a member of the branch Welcome Home Committee, which held several annual carnivals at the Auditorium

to raise money for gifts and comforts which were distributed at the railroad depots to all returning veterans. At one carnival he was chairman of the committee and presided at all meetings and acted as master of ceremonies. The total money raised by the carnivals plus one tag day was over \$40,000.00.

During his two years in office as President, Comrade Hocking was also busy with other branch war efforts and showed leadership and ability which inspired the membership to greater efforts. His chairmanship at the monthly meetings of the branch was carried out with dignity, an admirable interpretation of the rules of procedure, and a kindly diplomacy which added enjoyment for all those present, especially to those who lose interest when an "expert" from the floor arises to give his interpretation of Bourinot's rules.

Gil served many years as a member of Board of Trustees of the branch and was a director on the board of the Valour Road Legion Community Centre Ltd. from 1952 to 1958. He served the branch well until he died on May 25, 1963.

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## VALOUR ROAD'S PAST PRESIDENTS — 1932-1965

### Henry Northcote 1945

Henry Northcote was initiated as member of the branch in 1937 and was elected to the executive in 1941 serving for three years until moving up to the 1st Vice Presidency in 1944. He was elected president for 1945. The first amputee to hold the highest office, having lost an arm from severe wounds while in action with the 31st (Alberta) Battalion. He was blest with the fortitude and courage to face life despite his handicap and took up a sport in which he became outstanding — 5 pin bowling. In business he was a successful executive with Allan, Killam and McKay Ltd.

The war ended during his term in office and with thousands of servicemen returning, the routine of the branch changed to meet the problems which arose. The work of the Train Reception Committee had to be stepped up to meet the trains arriving at both depots at uncertain hours of the day and at night. All trains were met and comforts handed out which were paid for from the funds raised at the carnivals held in previous years. The 1945 carnival held at the Winnipeg Auditorium on April 13th and 14th netted \$6,500.00 which was added to the fund. Henry was very active in this project, meeting the trains and performing all the other necessary duties of his office. A sustained effort was made to influence the serviceman and women on discharge, to add their numbers to strengthen the Legion in its efforts to obtain legislation for the veterans commensurate with their service and sacrifice, and the

branch was successful in adding almost 400 new members during the year.

In June, the branch held its last general meeting in the Blind Institute Auditorium bringing to a close twelve years association with the building that had seen the branch grow from less than forty members to almost one thousand. A new meeting hall was arranged for in the Picardy Building at Broadway and Colony Street at which the remainder of the meetings were held for the rest of the year.

Henry Northcote was the last of the five wartime presidents, and his year in office was outstanding, to make 1945 a year of achievements second to none. It was a year of change, and it was under Comrade Northcote's leadership that they were executed with promptness and dispatch. He was blest with the tact, diplomacy and inspiration to activate lesser mortals to give their best for the branch.

It might be appropriate in recording the last year of the war's activities to remind all members that the total money raised by the branch, the Ladies' Auxiliary and the Junior Auxiliary was nearly \$100,000.00, by far a record amount for any branch in the Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario Command.

After leaving the chair Henry served on several committees and once again he became an officer of the branch when he was appointed Hon. Treasurer in 1948, after which he served as chairman of the Board of Trustees for many years. He passed away on May 5th, 1957 after twenty years of devoted service to his branch.

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## "FIFTY YEARS AGO"

September 1916 — September 1966

From—Official Canadian Communique for September 20 to 27, 1916.

"In the course of all this desperate fighting, there have been innumerable instances of the most courageous and devoted actions, impossible to present in detail. The case of Corporal Leo Clarke, of an Eastern Ontario Battalion is, however, one of the most extraordinary ever recorded.

The Battalion had successfully captured a line of German trenches when a party of the enemy, consisting of 2 officers and about 20 men, began a counter-attack. Corporal Clarke advanced alone against the whole party, emptied his revolver, picked up first one and then another German rifle, each of which he emptied, accounting for the 2 officers and 16 of the men. While he was shooting, one of the officers attacked him with a bayonet and pierced him in the leg below the knee, but Corporal Clarke shot him dead. The rest of the enemy attempted to escape. Corporal Clarke shot four of them and took the fifth a prisoner. Although wounded

in two places, he remained in the trenches until his battalion was relieved."

Leo Clarke is one of Valour Road's three Victoria Cross winners. He was born in Waterdown, near Hamilton, Ontario, Dec. 1st, 1892. His early years were spent in England, his parents homeland, but when he was eleven his parents returned to Canada and settled in Winnipeg. At the out break of the First Great War he was working on a survey in the Canadian North and he returned home and joined the 27th (City of Winnipeg) Battalion, C.E.F., arriving in England in June 1915. Leo later transferred to the 2nd (Eastern Ontario) Battalion to be with his brother, Lieut. Charles Clarke. The two brothers were in action only a short distance apart on the day of the 9th September when Leo won the Victoria Cross. He was killed a few weeks later on the 19th October 1916 and was buried in Etretat Churchyard, sixteen miles north of Le Havre, France.

## "MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 66"

Some did respond to the appeal to bring in at least one new member for the branch during the current year.

Far too many failed to respond to this important appeal, so if you have not so far responded you still have time to join the ranks of the "we got our new member" group. How about getting busy before the September general meeting on Wednesday the 21st, and bring

your veteran friend down for initiation. If you need application for membership forms phone TU 8-1035 and they will be mailed to you without delay.

Let us celebrate our 35th Anniversary with an increased membership, why wait for 1967, Lets increase it during the fall of 1966.

Your Membership Committee.

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## • *Ladies Auxiliary* •

NEXT AUXILIARY  
GENERAL MEETING  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th  
at 8 p.m.

By Marg Irvine

A warm welcome on a very warm evening was extended by the President, Mrs. L. G. Gillam, to all members present at the June meeting.

The President and Mrs. N. McDonald were nominated to represent the Auxiliary at the Annual Shareholders meeting on June 29th.

Members were welcomed back to the Auxiliary who went on the Legion Overseas Flight and good wishes extended to those going on the August Flight.

We had a perfect day for the Annual Picnic and those who attended enjoyed races, horse-shoe pitching and a barbecue supper.

How are the Draw tickets selling? We do hope you have sold all you have and will be looking for more books. The winner of the doll donated to us was Mr. Bill Saunders — a Branch Member. Congratulations.

The three athletes that the Auxiliary sent to the Annual Royal Canadian Legion Track and Field Camp at the International Peace Gardens will be invited to our September meeting, accom-

panied by Mr. Fred Taylor, Sports Representative of the Legion Track Meet.

Members are reminded of the Rummage Sale to be held on Saturday, October 15th. If you have rummage to be picked up, please call Mrs. J. Gamble — SP 2-1215.

While we had our usual delicious cup of tea, we held an Auction Sale and the Auctioneer's Voice Calling "Sold" made for a profitable and pleasant way to end our meetings for the summer.

We hope that all member had an enjoyable summer and all the sick and shut-ins are progressing favorably and that we will see you all at the September 19th meeting ready and eager to start the many fall activities.

### LADIES PLEASE NOTE:

The Annual Fall Tea will be held Wednesday November 2nd. Watch for further announcement in the October Bronge Tablet of this Special Event.

### SAUCERS

## SAUCERS SAUCERS

The Holding Company is putting out an appeal for members of the Branch and Auxiliary to bring their odd China Saucers to the meeting for ASH TRAYS FOR THE HALL. GLASS ASH TRAYS were purchased last spring, but they are too easily stolen, where a saucer is not easy to put in your pocket. We have less than a dozen out of 6 dozen. Your co-operation to this appeal will be greatly appreciated.

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## LEGION CENTENNIAL FUND

The Branch is in no way participating in the drive for the fund, to raise \$1 Million Dollars, and therefore no committee has been set up to meet the quota of \$4 per member. If any member still feels he would like to donate to the Centennial Fund, they can send their donation to the Branch Treasurer, and he will forward it to Command.

P. J. MONTAGUE

(Continued from page 5)

glory of our enviable record rise still higher. If there is more than one Valhalla where dauntless warriors ascend to, we can be sure that our dearly beloved comrade is in the council chamber of the highest lodge.

H. C. H.

Moe: "Has your wife changed much since you married her?"

Joe: "Yes — my habits, my friends and my hours."

Women always suffer pain with more courage than men. "You must be a dentist." "No," I sell shoes."

The little boy looked at photographs of his parents' wedding. His father described the ceremony and tried to explain its meaning.

The child exclaimed: "Is that when you got Mother to come and work for us?"

A real friend is one that walks in when the rest of the world walks out.

## THE ANNIVERSARY FUND

Why has the branch set up an anniversary fund? There are several reasons why it is necessary for the branch to find money to celebrate our 35th Anniversary in 1967, and while space will not permit us to cover all the special events to be arranged, we will just mention a few: the branch and auxiliary reception following the installation of officers ceremony on Sat. afternoon Jan. 7th. Being Anniversary year, this annual event will be held on a large scale, with special ceremonies and special invited guests. The 50 Anniversary of Vimy Ridge, Veteran Week in June, observing Canada's Centennial, The 35th Anniversary Dinner of the branch and its Auxiliary in October. To add to the above there is a possibility of special Naval, Military, and Air Force Nights. We plan to have a full programme of the events of 1967 in the hands of our many out of town members before the end of the year so that they can plan to come back home to attend some of them. Such a large programme will mean extra expenditures, so while no campaign for funds will be conducted or no special appeals made, any member who so desires can send in a donation marked "Anniversary Fund."

Next year is a very special year for the branch for it is the intention of the Board of Directors of the Valour Road Legion Community Centre Ltd., to redeem all bonds on our building by December 1967. This is an objective that deserves our full support and it is the intention of those responsible for the setting up of the Anniversary Fund to

(Continued on next page)

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## WHAT REMEMBRANCE DAY MEANS TO ME

Robert Selley,  
Grade IX Student —  
Isaac Brock School

In the past 52 years, two great wars have been fought upon the face of the earth. These wars caused by persons who wished to rule the world with tyrannical ferocity. These men used fiendish and often repulsive methods of subduing the oppositions forces, some were successful, and some were not. None of these men however, were successful in accomplishing their wild dreams.

The first world war was ended by a armistice on November 11th, 1918. The second World War ended in Europe with the Capture of Berlin, and in Japan with the dropping of the second Atomic Bomb. Both times we were successful.

Remembrance Day, November 11th was originated to Commemorate the end of World War 1. On this day, we pay tribute to the men and women who

died in both wars, and also to the men and women who were fortunate to have lived through these great drifts of strife and heatache in time.

In my opinion, we owe a great deal of thanks to these people who fought and died to save our country from the kind of dictatorship which would have established had we been defeated. Even though none of these wars were fought in my lifetime, I realize the importance of our two great Victories, and hold in great respect, any person who fought in any of these wars and in fact, any other war.

Remembrance Day means a lot to almost everyone, and more to other persons of other generations.

### ANNIVERSARY FUND

(Continued from page 10)

hand over a sum of money to assist the Board of Directors to redeem the outstanding bonds.

Every dollar contributed will be used for the above purposes. Not a cent goes to administration, remuneration, or other expenses. No appeals will be made, and no pressure methods used. The Anniversary Fund is there; it is entirely up to you whether you wish to contribute to it.

As at August 31st, 1966 the Anniversary Fund stands at \$300.00.

### Don't Forget the

### CHURCH PARADE

Sunday, September 25th

She: "How about giving me a diamond bracelet "

He: "My dear, extenuating circumstances force me to preclude you from such an extravagant bauble."

She: "I don't get it."

He: "That's what I said."

Taxi driver to passenger: "There'll be no charge, lady. You did most of the driving."

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## — Joke Corner —

An alderly lady zoomed past a state trooper who was cruising along at a nominal speed. He gave chase, and when he had brought her to a stop he asked for her driver's license.

The woman looked at him sharply. "Young man," she said, "how can I be expected to show you my driver's license when you people keep taking it away?"

Shoe department manager to customer: "Yes, we have a selection of loafers. I'll see if I can get one to wait on you."

### COULDN'T BE

Little Boy (calling father at office)  
—"Hello, who is this?"

Father (recognizing son's voice)—  
"The smartest man in the world."

Little Boy—"Pardon me, I got the wrong number."

### MEN PREFERRED

Two secretaries were discussing a recently purchased office machine.

"I know it does the work of three men," one said. "But I'd rather have the men."

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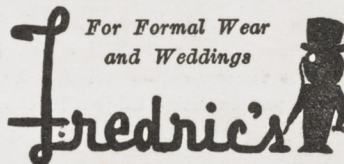
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